

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 14, 2004

For immediate release

1. **EPC to address water quality standards**
2. **Reporting manure spills and prompt clean-up prevent problems**
3. **Public hearings scheduled in early November for animal feeding rules**
4. **Livestock producers who need to use the P index should take soil samples now**

EPC TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

DES MOINES – Water quality standards and livestock rules will be on the agenda for the Environmental Protection Commission's Oct. 18 meeting.

The EPC will be asked to approve a final rule that sets a standard procedure for assessing cold water streams. Commissioners will also be presented with a proposed timeline for major changes to state water quality standards.

Commissioners will also be presented with a proposal that would set engineering standards for manure and effluent control structures designed for open feedlots.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to approve multi-year contracts to decrease sediment and nutrients in the Lake of Three Fires watershed that reach the lake. The lake is located in Taylor County. The proposed contracts would be used to hire a part-time project coordinator and to provide cost-share for landowners in the watershed.

The EPC will also be asked to approve several contracts for water quality monitoring and a contract for manure applicator certification training.

In a departure from the usual meeting place, the commission will meet Monday in Classroom B of the State Historical Building, 600 East Locust in Des Moines. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes

- Director's Remarks
- Final Rule - Chapter 61, Water Quality Standards
- Time Line for Modifications to Chapter 61, Water Quality Standards
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Project Contracts
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program – Recommendations
- Memorandum of Agreement between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department
- Contract - University Hygienic Laboratory – Ambient Water Quality Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2004
- Contract with the University Hygienic Laboratory for Biological Stream Assessment Surveys including REMAP and Reference Site Projects.
- Contract - University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory for water analysis and biological monitoring associated with the Walnut Creek monitoring project
- Contract – United States Geological Survey for stream gauging and suspended sediment analysis associated with the Walnut Creek monitoring project
- Regional Haze and Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) Presentation
- Proposed Rule: Chapter 22, Special Requirements for Visibility Protection, Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) Applicability.
- Final Rule - Air Quality Program Rules Chapters 22, 23 and 25, Updates, Revisions, and Additions
- Contract - Iowa State University Extension Service – Manure Applicator Certification Training
- Proposed Rule - Amendment to Chapter 65.17 - incorporating the Phosphorus Index into manure management plans
- Proposed Rule - Amendment to Chapter 65 – engineering standards for open feedlots
- Referral to the Attorney General
 - Carl Schelling (Orange City – Sioux County) – Animal Feeding Operation
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Kathryn Murphy, LeMars; Terrance Townsend, Newton; Lisa Davis-Cook, West Des Moines; Lori Glanzman, Mt. Pleasant; Jerry Peckum, Jefferson; Heidi Vittetoe, Washington; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; and Donna Buell, Spirit Lake. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

For more information, contact Karen Grimes, at (515) 281-5135.

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REPORTING MANURE SPILLS AND PROMPT CLEAN-UP PREVENT PROBLEMS

MANCHESTER — Ironically, while several small manure spills were reported to the DNR on Monday and Wednesday, only the smallest spill reached a stream.

While a farmer was combining Monday afternoon, he noticed discolored water in a small tributary of Almorat Branch Creek in Delaware County and reported the discharge to the DNR.

The discoloration was traced 500 feet upstream to an open hog lot owned by Dan Ries of Earlville. Mike Wade, a DNR environmental specialist, said that the discharge had begun recently and that less than 200 gallons of manure had discharged from the lot.

Field tests of the stream showed ammonia levels at 5 to 10 parts per million. Wade said it was unlikely to cause a fish kill because of the cool water temperatures, but could have caused one if the spill hadn't been discovered. Depending upon water temperature and acidity, fish kills usually occur at about 8 ppm of ammonia.

“This illustrates that neighbors should not be hesitant to report spills from neighbors, as quick reporting can avert significant environmental damage,” Wade said.

He added that the hog lot owner might not have found the spill on his own, because it was in an area that is not readily visible.

The other spills occurred while manure application equipment was being loaded, so the equipment operators discovered the spills and were able to begin clean-up immediately:

- Less than 1,000 gallons were spilled in Osceola County at the Mary Benz - Prestage site in Goeway Township.
- Approximately 2,000 to 3,000 gallons were spilled in Plymouth County at a site owned by Fritz Dirksen of LeMars.
- In Crawford County, approximately 200 to 250 gallons of manure were spilled when an employee of Dorale Brothers accidentally left an agitator on the load setting, instead of the agitate setting.
- On Wednesday morning, about 500 gallons of manure spilled in Butler County when a tractor pulling an injector tank-trailer backed the trailer into a ditch. The hauler, Jason Reinke of Agri-Zone, Inc., excavated the soil/manure mixture and promptly land applied it.

In yet another manure spill in Plymouth County, a transfer pipe broke spilling several thousand gallons of manure behind a terrace at Plymouth Dairy. The manure reached a low spot in the terrace and began flowing into a water of the state. Silage leachate also was being contained by the terrace and an unknown amount was released to the stream. DNR inspectors did not find any dead fish in the stream.

The DNR will consider legal action where appropriate in these cases.

Manure is commonly used as fertilizer and an average application rate for manure from a hog finishing confinement with a pit under the building would be about 2,500 gallons per acre. Normally the manure would be injected underneath the soil surface decreasing the chance that runoff would reach a stream.

Anyone who stores, handles, transports or land applies manure must report releases to the local DNR field office within six hours

For more information, contact Mike Wade at (563) 927-2640.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED IN EARLY NOVEMBER FOR ANIMAL FEEDING RULES

DES MOINES — Five public hearings have been scheduled on a proposed rule that would primarily affect larger or concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO).

Livestock and poultry producers would be affected by the part of the rule change that would require national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permits for the larger confinement feeding operations for the first time in Iowa.

“It’s important for livestock producers to know that if this proposal is approved, it will be one and one-half years before the larger confinements will have to act,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator for DNR’s animal feeding operations.

The following public hearings will be held on the proposed rule for concentrated animal feeding operations:

- November 2, at 9:00 a.m., at the Cass County Community Center, 805 W. 10th Street in Atlantic
- November 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Plymouth County Extension office, 24 1st St NW in Le Mars
- November 4, at 6:30 p.m., at Marr Park, 2943 Hwy 92 in Ainsworth
- November 5, at 8:30 a.m., at the Parks & Recreation, 200 First Street NE, in Waverly
- November 5, at 1:30 p.m., at the Wallace Building, 5th Floor Conference Rooms, 502 E. 9th Street in Des Moines

A complete copy of the rule proposal can be found under animal feeding operations on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com or at <http://www.iowadnr.com/epc/04sep/5.pdf>.

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing during the public hearings. All other comments must be received no later than Nov. 5, 2004.

Any person who intends to attend a public hearing and has special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility, should contact Gene Tinker to advise of any specific needs.

Written comments on the proposed rules should be directed to Gene Tinker at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East Ninth Street, Fax (515) 281-8895, or by email to gene.tinker@dnr.state.ia.us.

For more information, contact Gene Tinker at (515) 281-3103.

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LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WHO NEED TO USE THE P INDEX SHOULD TAKE SOIL SAMPLES NOW

DES MOINES — Livestock producers who are submitting an original manure management plan after Oct. 24 will need to take soil samples for phosphorus and pH.

“There aren’t many producers in this category, but by 2008, all confinement producers who must submit manure management plans will need to be using the phosphorus index and soil sampling,” said Jeremy Klatt, a DNR environmental specialist.

Soil erodibility and soil test results are two important pieces of information needed to run the phosphorus index.

Klatt said it’s important to take soil samples properly, making sure that there is:

- one sample taken for every ten acres, and
- each sample consists of a composite of ten cores, six inches deep.

The DNR has very specific rules for soil sampling, but producers can use any method, including by soil type, on grids or by management zones. The samples must be taken to an approved lab – one that is enrolled in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s soil testing certification program.

State law requires producers with a confinement feeding operation who must file a manure management plan to use the phosphorus index. Producers who filed their original manure management plans prior to April 1, 2002, will need to begin using the index in 2008. Producers who filed an original plan after April 1, 2002, but before Oct. 25, 2004, will need to use the index beginning in 2006.

More information on proper soil sampling techniques is available from Iowa State University Extension. Information on manure management plans and the phosphorus index is available on the DNR Web site under animal feeding operations at www.iowadnr.com.

For more information, contact Jeremy Klatt at (515) 281-8690.

